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 March 2012
 Morphology!

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A Problem About Hungarian Nominal Phrases

Hungarian is the most widely spoken non-Indo European language in Europe, with roughly 15 million native speakers. It is a Uralic language, and the official language of Hungary¹.

Standard Hungarian orthography (unlike English) is phonetic, and will be used for this whole problem.

CONSONANTS:

Note: When two symbols appear next to each other, the one on the right is voiceless and the one on the left is voiced. (e.g. [p] and [b])

	Bilabial	Labio- Dental	Alveolar	Post- Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
stops	p b		t d		ny	k g	
nasals		m		n			
affricates			c dz	cs dzs	ty gy		
fricatives		f v	sz z	s zs			h
trill			r				
approximant			l		j		

VOWELS:

	front unrounded	front rounded	back unrounded	back rounded
high	i	ü		u
high mid	é	ö		o
low mid	e		a	
low				á

NOTE: Vowels lengthening is indicated by accent marks:

Short V	IPA	Long V	IPA
i	/i/	í	/i:/
ü	/y/	ű	/y:/
u	/u/	ú	/u:/
e	/ɛ/	é	/e:/
ö	/ø/	ő	/ø:/
o	/o/	ó	/o:/
a	/ɔ/	á	/a:/

Now to begin!

I. PLURAL

¹There are very good soups in Hungary, but you won't need to know that for the rest of this problem.

→Part A

gloss	singular	plural
"kitten"	cica	cicák
"snail"	csiga	csigák
"boy"	fiú	fiúk
"baby cow"	boci	bocik
"apple"	alma	almák
"gate"	kapu	kapuk
"scissors"	olló	ollók

Based on the data above, form a hypothesis about the shape of the plural morpheme in Hungarian. Be sure to explain any allomorphy that you find.

→Part B (Some New Data!)

gloss	singular	plural
"teacher"	tanár	tanárok
"flower"	virág	virágok
"sugar"	cukor	cukrok
"girl"	lány	lányok
"house"	ház	házak
"linguist"	nyelvész	nyelvészek
"soup"	leves	levesek
"fingernail"	köröm	körmők

Revise your analysis to account for the data above, and present a succinct hypothesis about the Hungarian plural morpheme.

NOTE: There is not enough data here to fully analyze "köröm" and „cukor.” Observe what is happening with those words, but you do not need to analyze.

II. PERSONAL POSSESSIVES

In this section, you will see how personal possessive markers are expressed on nouns.

→Part A

gloss	singular	"my___"	"your___"	"his/her/its___"
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"kitten"	cica	cicám	cicád	cicája
"snail"	csiga	csigám	csigád	csigája
"apple"	alma	almám	almád	almája
"scissors"	olló	ollóm	ollód	ollója
"gate"	kapu	kapum	kapud	kapuja
"baby cow"	boci	bocim	bocid	bocija
"sugar"	cukor	cukrom	cukrod	cukra
"girl"	lány	lányom	lányod	lánya
"teacher"	tanár	tanárom	tanárod	tanára
"flower"	virág	virágom	virágod	virága
"house"	ház	házam	házad	háza
"fingernail"	köröm	körömöm	körömöd	körme
"linguist"	nyelvész	nyelvészem	nyelvészed	nyelvésze
"soup"	leves	levesem	levesed	levese

Propose underlying forms and phonological rules to account for the alternations above. How are each of the personal possessives expressed?

→Part B

The data below shows plural personal possessives (e.g. if more than one person possesses a kitten/fingernail/soup...)

gloss	singular	"our___"	"your(PL)___"	"their___"
"kitten"	cica	cicánk	cicátok	cicájuk
"snail"	csiga	csigánk	csigátok	csigájuk
"apple"	alma	almánk	almátok	almájuk
"scissors"	olló	ollónk	ollótok	ollójuk
"gate"	kapu	kapunk	kaputok	kapujuk
"baby cow"	boci	bocink	bocitok	bocijuk
"sugar"	cukor	cukrunk	cukrotok	cukoruk
"girl"	lány	lányunk	lányotok	lányuk
"teacher"	tanár	tanárunk	tanárotok	tanáruk
"flower"	virág	virágunk	virágotok	viráguk
"house"	ház	házunk	házatok	házuk
"linguist"	nyelvész	nyelvészünk	nyelvészetek	nyelvészük
"soup"	leves	levesünk	levesetek	levesük
"fingernail"	köröm	körmünk	körmötök	körmük

Note any similarities between these morphemes and morphemes you've seen previously. Propose underlying forms and give an account of these plural personal possessive markers.

→ *Part C*

Now it's time to look at some plural nouns combined with personal possessive markers! (So, we will be looking at how to say "my kittens" as opposed to "my kitten.")

gloss	singular	"my___"	"your___"	"his/her/its___"
"kitten"	cica	cicáim	cicáid	cicái
"snail"	csiga	csigáim	csigáid	csigái
"apple"	alma	almáim	almáid	almái
"scissors"	olló	ollóaim	ollóaid	ollóai
"gate"	kapu	kapuim	kapuid	kapui
"baby cow"	boci	bociaim	bociaid	bociai
"sugar"	cukor	cukraim	cukraid	cukrai
"girl"	lány	lányaim	lányaid	lányai
"teacher"	tanár	tanáram	tanáraid	tanárai
"flower"	virág	virágaim	virágaid	virágai
"house"	ház	házaim	házaid	házai
"linguist"	nyelvész	nyelvéseim	nyelvéseid	nyelvése
"soup"	leves	leveseim	leveseid	levesei
"fingernail"	köröm	körmeim	körmeid	körmei

What can you say about how the plural morpheme and the personal possessive morpheme interact? (Are they ordered?) Give an account of these endings.

→ *Part D*

Now, we will look at how plural personal possessives interact with plural nouns (e.g. "our/ your guys'/ their kittens")

gloss	singular	"our___"	"your(PL)___"	"their___"
"kitten"	cica	cicáink	cicáitok	cicáik
"snail"	csiga	csigáink	csigáitok	csigáik

"apple"	alma	almáink	almáitok	almáik
"gate"	kapu	kapuink	kapuitok	kapuik
"baby cow"	boci	bocaink	bocaitok	bociaik
"sugar"	cukor	cukraink	cukraitok	cukraik
"girl"	lány	lányaink	lányaitok	lányaik
"teacher"	tanár	tanáraink	tanáraitok	tanáraik
"flower"	virág	virágaink	virágaitok	virágaik
"house"	ház	házaink	házaitok	házaik
"linguist"	nyelvész	nyelvészeink	nyelvészeitek	nyelvészeik
"soup"	leves	leveseink	leveseitek	leveseik
"fingernail"	köröm	körmeink	körmeitek	körmeik

i. Refine the analysis you have thus far so that it accounts for all of the forms above.

ii. Propose an underlying form for each of the morphemes, using all of the data up to this point.

III. THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

The definite determiner "the" can appear before nouns in Hungarian. (Assume that the data below is representative of the whole set.)

→ *Part A*

i. Using the data below, suggest the underlying form for it, and describe any phonological alternations.

ii. What do you think the structure might be for nominal phrases in Hungarian?

- (1) a. a cica "the kitten"
 b. az alma "the apple"
 c. a virág "the flower"
 d. az olló "the scissors"

(2) a kék alma „the blue apple”

(3) a szép virág „the beautiful flower”

(4) a nagyon szép csiga „the very beautiful snail”

(5) a nagyon boldog nyelvész „the very happy linguist”

→Part B

Look at how the definite article interacts with the personal possessive markers. What can we see about personal possessive markers in Hungarian?

- (6) a. a bocim "my cow"
 b. a cukortok "your(PL) sugar"
 c. a kapuja "his/her/its gate"
 d. az almaik "their apples"

→ Part C

There are a whole lot of case suffixes in Hungarian. In the following examples, we will look at just one: the ablative morpheme (which signifies movement away from something). (Assume again that the data is representative of all the other forms.)

- i. What is the shape of the ablative morpheme?
 ii. How is it ordered, with respect to the other morphemes we have seen?

- (7) a. cicától „from the kitten”
 b. virágtól „from the flower”
 c. levestől „from the soup”
- (8) a. cicáktól „from the kittens”
 b. virágoktól „from the flowers”
 c. levesektől „from the soups”
- (9) a. cicaimtól „from my kittens”
 b. virágaidtól „from your flowers”
 c. levesiüktől „from their soups”

Time to go to the beach for now.